

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 15 are amended to even further distinguish over the applied references, and claims 2, 4-6, 10, 13 and 14 are amended for clarity. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 15 can be found, for example, in Figs. 17 and 18. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-48-104334 (JP 334), in view of Fujiwara, WO 2001/89957. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of JP 334 and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest a package member that includes a first fastening member located on a first side to fasten a flap member in a closed state where the flap member covers a part of the sheets and a second fastening member located on a second side, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action acknowledges that JP 334 does not disclose or suggest a fastening member, but cites to Fujiwara for the deficiency. Fujiwara teaches that cellophane tape can be used to attach a cap shaped cover part 2 to one side of the package material (see paragraph [0064] of the corresponding U.S. Patent App. Publication No. 2003/0164317 A1). The Office Action asserts that the cellophane tape corresponds to the claimed fastening member. However, the cellophane tape merely allows the cap-shaped cover part 2 to be completely removed from the main part 5. Further, even if the cellophane tape could be considered to correspond to a fastening member, Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest any feature that could reasonably be considered to correspond to a second fastening member on another side of the package material. Therefore, the combination of JP 334 and Fujiwara fails to disclose or suggest a package member that includes a first fastening member located on a first side to

fasten a flap member in a closed state where the flap member covers a part of the sheets and a second fastening member located on a second side, as recited in independent claim 1.

The combination of JP 334 and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest that a sheet package can be set in a printer with a flap part fixed in an opened state exposing a part of the sheets while the exposed part of the sheets can be covered with the flap part fixed in the closed state when the sheet package is not being used in the printer, as recited in independent claim 10.

JP 334 does not disclose or suggest any feature that fixes part 3 in an opened state. Instead, JP 334 merely discloses that part 3 is folded over (see Figs. 3 and 4). Fujiwara fails to overcome the deficiencies of JP 334 because once the cap-shaped cover part 2 is completely removed, there is nothing that fixes the cap shaped cover part 2 such that it stays in an opened state (see Fig. 4 and paragraph [0034]). Therefore, the combination of JP 334 and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest that a sheet package can be set in a printer with a flap part fixed in an opened state exposing a part of the sheets while the exposed part of the sheets can be covered with the flap part fixed in the closed state when the sheet package is not being used in the printer, as recited in independent claim 10.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 10 and dependent claims 2-9, 11, 12, 16 and 17 are patentable over the combination of JP 334 and Fujiwara. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Medoff, U.S. Patent No. 1,883,852, in view of Fujiwara. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Medoff and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest a package member that includes a first fastening member located on a first side to fasten a flap member in a closed state where the flap member covers a part of the sheets and a second fastening member located on a second side, as recited in independent claims 1.

Medoff discloses a tissue container having a closing flap 7 that is inserted into slot 8 to close the tissue container (page 1, lines 57-61). Medoff does not disclose or suggest a second slot, or any other feature located on another side of the tissue container that could reasonably be considered to correspond to a second fastening member. As discussed above, Fujiwara fails to overcome this deficiency. Therefore, the combination of Medoff and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest a package member that includes a first fastening member located on a first side to fasten a flap member in a closed state where the flap member covers a part of the sheets and a second fastening member located on a second side, as recited in independent claim 1.

The combination of Medoff and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest that the sheet package can be set in a printer with the flap part fixed in the opened state exposing the part of the sheets while the exposed part of the sheets can be covered with the flap part fixed in the closed state when the sheet package is not being used in the printer, as recited in independent claim 10.

Medoff does not disclose or suggest any feature that fixes part 3 in an opened state. Instead, Medoff merely discloses a slot 8 into which closing flap 7 is inserted to fix the tissue compact in a closed state, not an opened state (see Fig. 1 and page 1, lines 57-61). Fujiwara fails to overcome the deficiencies of Medoff because once the cap-shaped cover part 2 is completely removed, there is no feature that fixes the cap shaped cover part 2 such that it stays in an opened state (see Fig. 4 and paragraph [0034]). Therefore, the combination of Medoff and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest that the sheet package can be set in a printer with the flap part fixed in the opened state exposing the part of the sheets while the exposed part of the sheets can be covered with the flap part fixed in the closed state when the sheet package is not being used in the printer, as recited in independent claim 10.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 10, and dependent claims 2-9, 11, 16 and 17 are patentable over the combination of Medoff and Fujiwara. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishiduka et al. (Ishiduka), U.S. Patent No. 6,217,019, in view of Fujiwara. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Ishiduka and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest a package member that includes a first fastening member located on a first side to fasten a flap member in the closed state where the flap member covers a part of the sheets and a second fastening member located on a second side, as recited in independent claim 15.

The Office action acknowledges that Ishiduka fails to disclose a fastening member. As discussed above, Fujiwara fails to overcome the deficiencies of Ishiduka because Fujiwara teaches that cellophane tape can be used to attach the cap shaped cover part 2 (see paragraph [0064] of the corresponding U.S. Patent App. Publication No. 2003/0164317 A1). Fujiwara does not disclose any feature that can reasonably be considered to correspond to a second fastening member located on a second side. Therefore, the combination of Ishiduka and Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest a package member that includes a first fastening member located on a first side to fasten a flap member in the closed state where the flap member covers a part of the sheets and a second fastening member located on a second side, as recited in independent claim 15. Therefore, claim 15 is patentable over the combination of Ishiduka and Fujiwara. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Medoff in view of Fujiwara; and rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 334 in view of Fujiwara, and further in view of Medoff. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

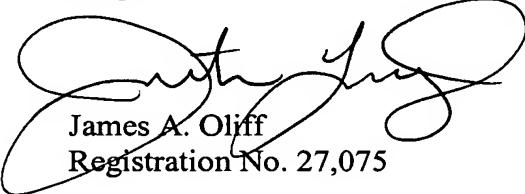
Because claims 13 and 14 incorporate the features of independent claim 10, and because Medoff and Fujiwara fail to overcome the deficiencies of JP 334, these claims also

are patentable over the applied references for at least these reasons as well as for the additional features that these claims recite. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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